DC
BAT MAN
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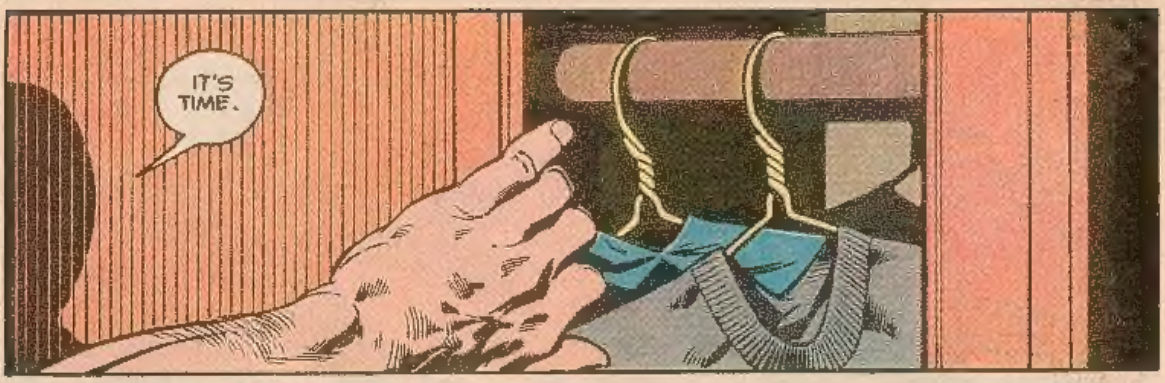
STRUGGLE AS HARD AS YOU WANT, BATMAN--YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT YOURSELF!
DC
WHERE THE ACTION IS!
HANNIGAN + GIORDANO



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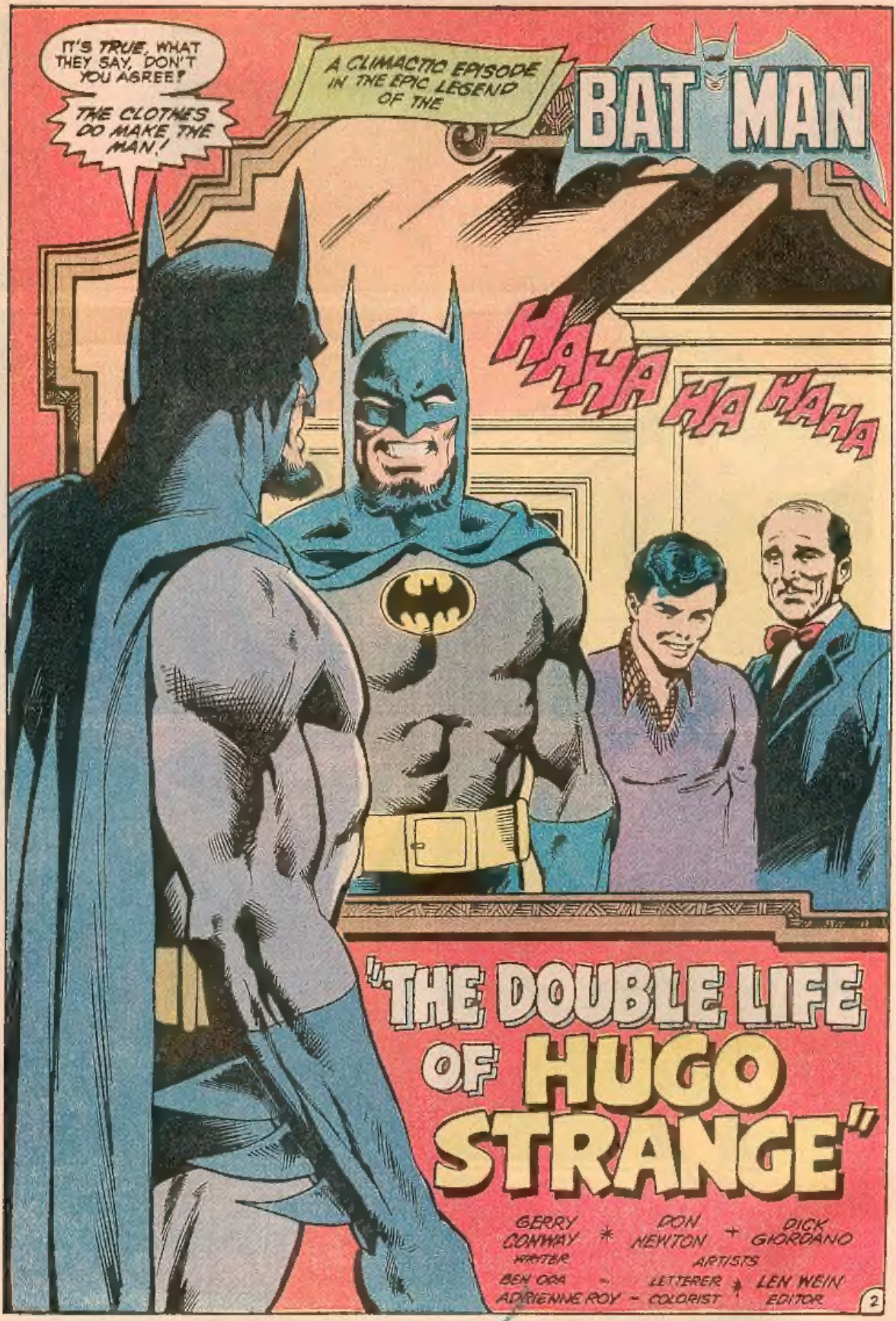
IT'S TRUE, WHAT THEY SAY, DON'T YOU AGREE?
THE CLOTHES DO MAKE THE MAN!
A CLIMACTIC EPISODE IN THE EPIC LEGEND OF THE
BAT MAN
HA HA HA HA HA HA
"THE DOUBLE LIFE OF HUGO STRANGE"
GERRY CONWAY WRITER * DON NEWTON + DICK GIORDANO ARTISTS
BEN ODA ~ ADRIENNE ROY LETTERER ~ COLORIST
LEN WEIN EDITOR
2

NIGHT IN GOTHAM. THE MOST ROMANTIC TIME IN AMERICA'S MOST ROMANTIC CITY...
BRUCE, YOU KNOW HOW PAINFUL MY DIVORCE WAS.
IT WAS MONTHS BEFORE I COULD EVEN TALK ABOUT IT!
THAT WAS THE PROBLEM, REALLY--HE AND I COULDN'T TALK...
...AND SLOWLY, THE SILENCE CONSUMED OUR MARRIAGE.

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS--SINCE I BECAME EDITOR OF PICTURE NEWS--WE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TOGETHER...
AND YOU'RE AFRAID WE'VE LOST TOUCH.
AREN'T YOU REALLY WORRIED ABOUT SELINA?
SHE LOVES YOU, BRUCE.

I'M NOT SURE I CAN COMPETE WITH HER PASSION... AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU.
JUST TRY.

VICKI--? WHAT'S WRONG?
BLAST IT!
I'VE GOT TO BE AT A SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.
CAN I MEET YOU AT YOUR HOUSE LATER FOR A NIGHTCAP?
OF COURSE.
GREAT. BYE!

WELL, BRUCE... TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY.
YOU RAN OUT ON HER A FEW DAYS AGO TO CHASE SNOWMEN IN THE HIMALAYAS*--
*LAST MONTH'S DETECTIVE 522. --Len.
3

--SO IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT VICKI RETURN THE FAVOR, EVEN UNINTENTIONALLY.
I USED TO THINK I WORKED HARD WHEN I HEADED UP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION.
VICKI'S ON THE GO TWENTY HOURS A DAY.
WHERE DOES SHE GET HER ENERGY?
MOMENTS LATER, ON GOTHAM'S NORTH RIVER DRIVE...
SELINA, I WAS BEING GLIB WITH VICKI, UNFAIRLY SO.
I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT SELINA KYLE--
--AND I'M EVEN MORE CERTAIN THAN VICKI THAT SELINA WON'T LONG LEAVE OUR RELATIONSHIP UNRESOLVED.
PROBLEMS.
SOMEHOW, I HAVE TO SIMPLIFY MY LIFE BEFORE IT-- EH?
SSSSSSS
WARMTH AND CLOYING SWEETNESS ENVELOP HIM.
HIS EYES CLOSE; HE SHAKES OFF A WAVE OF DIZZINESS...
BETTER PULL OVER BEFORE I--
WHAT ON EARTH?
4

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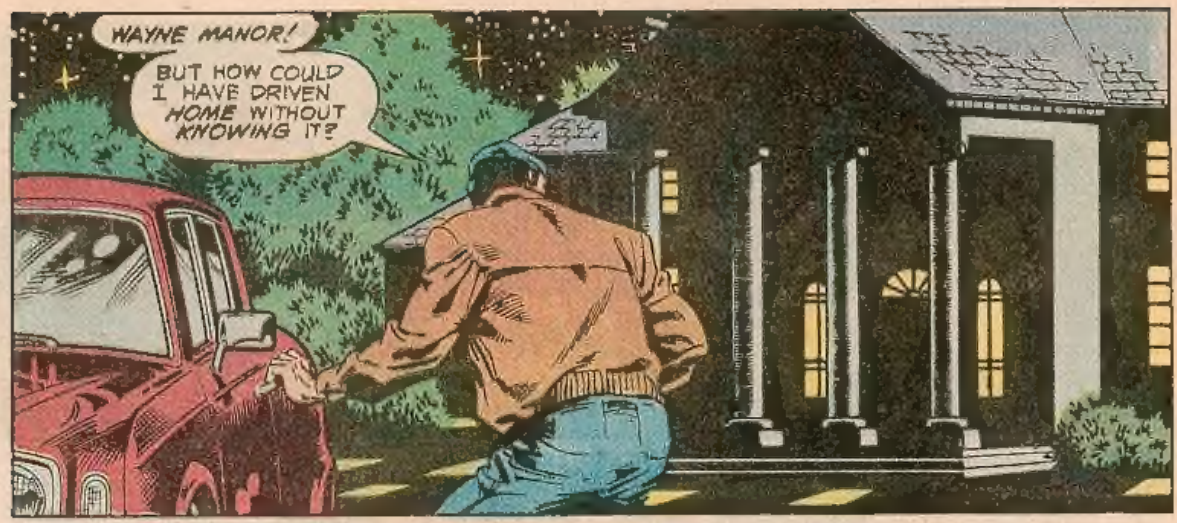

WAYNE MANOR!
BUT HOW COULD I HAVE DRIVEN HOME WITHOUT KNOWING IT?

HAND SHAKING, HE TURNS HIS KEY IN THE FAMILIAR LOCK...
...AND IS GREETED BY AN EQUALLY-FAMILIAR SMILING FACE...
GOOD EVENING, SIR.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF POURING YOUR TEA WHEN I HEARD THE CAR DRAW UP.
MS. VALE--?

VICKI... WILL BE JOINING US LATER, ALFRED.
DO I LOOK-- A LITTLE STRANGE TO YOU?
A TRIFLE PALE, SIR.
I MUST SAY, I FEEL A LITTLE PEAKED MYSELF... I HEAR THERE'S A FLU GOING AROUND.
MAYBE THAT'S IT. I FEEL SO DIZZY...

MY GOD. THIS TEA--

--IT'S DISCOLORED.
SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE TEA--?
ALFRED, I'M NOT THIRSTY, AFTER ALL--

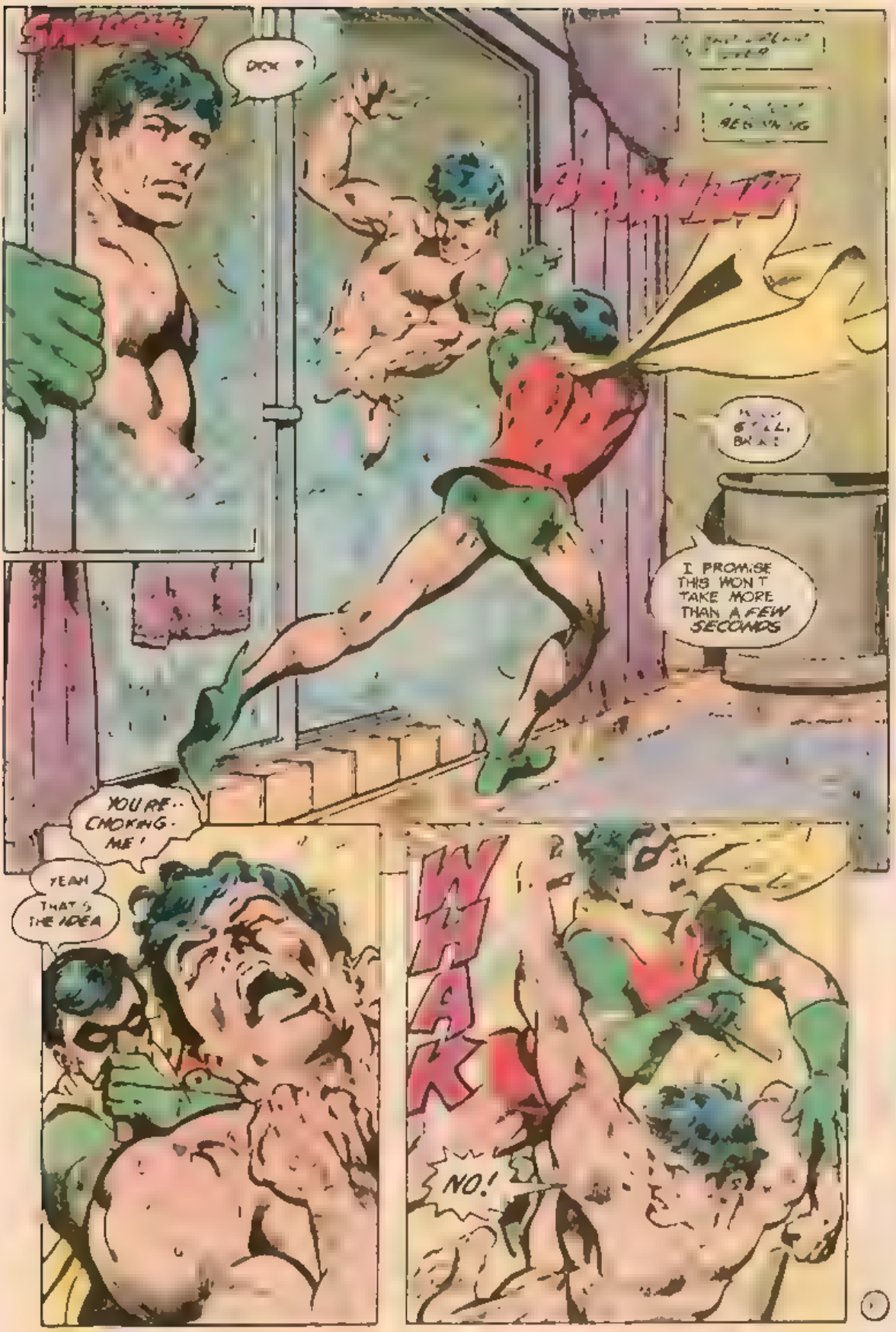
THAT'S TOO BAD, SIR.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH SIMPLER IF YOU'D JUST DRUNK THE TEA.
ALFRED!
HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF A JOKE.
KR
AK!
--I'M NOT LAUGHING!
CAN'T BELIEVE THIS... ALFRED ATTACKING ME... AND THE WAY I HIT BACK...
I'M NOT IN CONTROL!
NOT IN CONTROL OF WHAT, SIR?
6

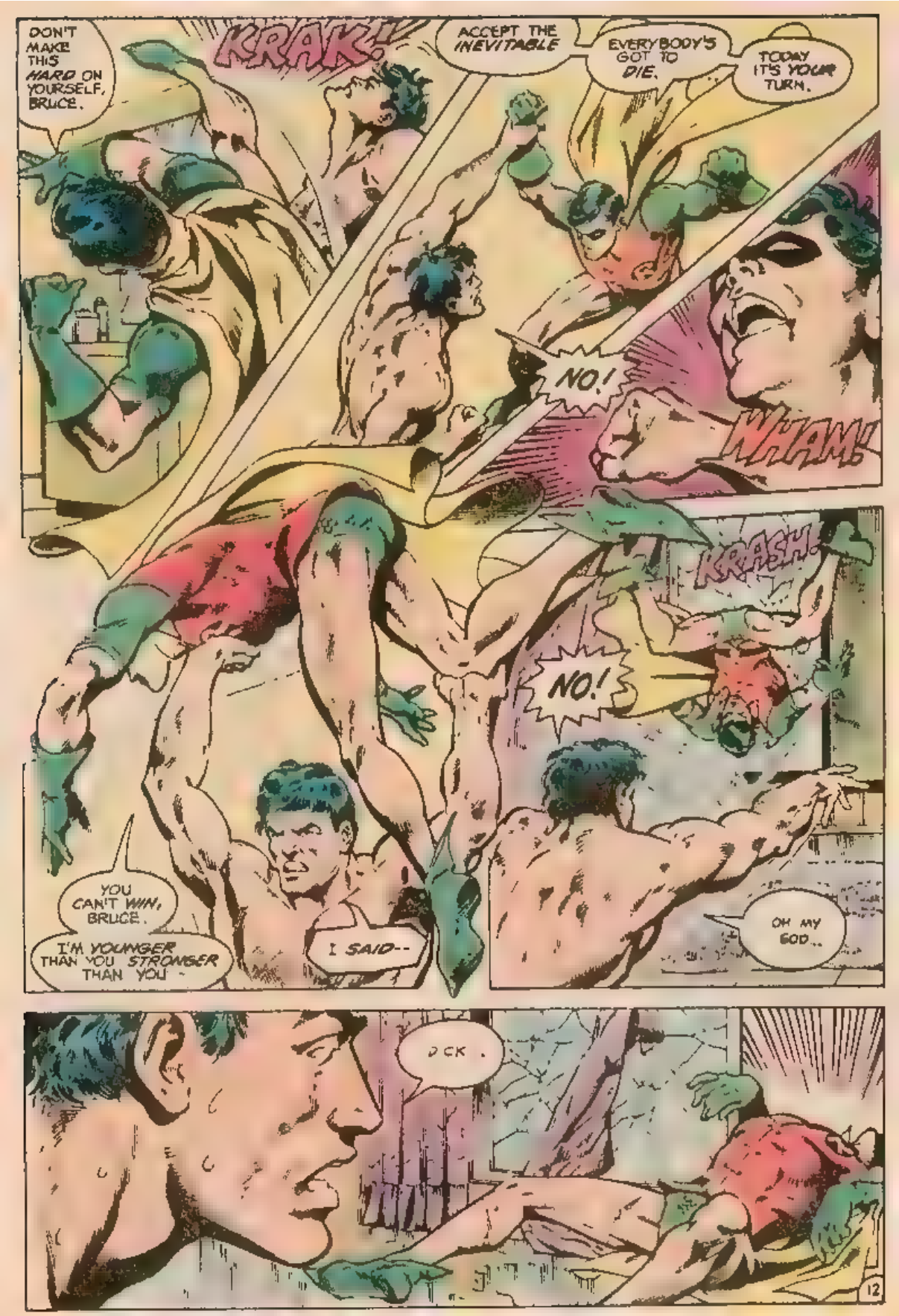
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT MEETING YOU AT THE DOOR.
I WAS IN THE KITCHEN--
-- FIXING A SPOT OF TEA.
BUT--
IS ANYTHING WRONG, MASTER BRUCE?
YOU LOOK A TRIFLE PALE.
THIS IS SURREAL! AM I HAVING BLACKOUTS?
THAT MUST BE IT -- SOME KIND OF DELAYED STRESS REACTION TO TENSION.
EXCELLENT EARL GREY, ALFRED... AS USUAL.
I THINK I'LL GO UPSTAIRS NOW ...TAKE A SHOWER ... BEFORE VICKI ARRIVES...
VERY GOOD, SIR.
WILL YOU AND MS. YALE BE WANTING A LATE DINNER?
HMMM-CLICK
NO... JUST PUT OUT THE TATTINGER '59 TO CHILL...
...AND SET SOME LOGS ON THE FIRE IN THE DRAWING ROOM.
7

IT BEGINS.
BY THE TIME YOU GUESS THE TRUTH, BRUCE WAYNE--
--YOU'LL BE IN NO SHAPE TO RESIST YOUR INEVITABLE DESTINY!
HAHA HAHA
WAYNE MANOR.
WICK!... I MEAN... MS. VALE!
DIDN'T YOU AND BRUCE HAVE A DATE TONIGHT--?
TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED, DICK.
ALFRED, WOULD YOU TELL BRUCE I'M HERE-- AS PROMISED?
MR. WAYNE...? I THOUGHT... ISN'T HE WITH YOU?
ALFRED, IF HE WAS WITH ME, WOULD I BE STANDING HERE ASKING YOU TO ANNOUNCE ME?
SO HE ISN'T HOME.
MAYBE... HE WENT SOMEWHERE ELSE... TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE.
8
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

SURE.
WHEN YOU SEE HIM, TELL HIM I HOPE HE HAD A NICE TIME.
MISS VICKI, I'M CERTAIN HE ISN'T--
SURE.
GOOD NIGHT, ALFRED, DICK.
VICKI'S UPSET.
FRANKLY, YOUNG SIR, SO AM I.
THE BATCAVE?
RIGHT.
IF BRUCE GOT INVOLVED IN A CASE AS THE BATMAN ON HIS WAY HOME, HE WOULD HAVE CALLED IN TO WARN YOU ABOUT VICKI.
TRY REACHING HIM ON HIS COM-LINK.
AS YOU SAY, MASTER DICK.
ELSEWHERE--
DIZZINESS ISN'T GOING AWAY.
HARD TO FOCUS.
SHOWER WILL CLEAR MY HEAD.
I HOPE.
9

WE'RE RECEIVING A FEEDBACK SIGNAL.
THAT MEANS THE UNIT IS WORKING -- BUT THE MASTER ISN'T RESPONDING!
SHOOOSH
"SHUT IT OFF ALFRED
'BRUCE WOULD RESPOND IF HE COULD.
". WHICH MUST MEAN HE'S IN TROUBLE!"
YOU'LL NEED THIS TO FIND HIM, DICK.
IT'LL AMPLIFY HIS COM-LINK'S FEEDBACK SIGNAL...
...LIKE A HOMING DEVICE.
HANDY
DO ME A FAVOR, ALFRED -
- IF I DON'T CHECK IN BY MIDNIGHT CALL TITANS' TOWER.
TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENED
HAVE YOU GOT THE R NUMBER?
I BELIEVE IT'S IN OUR BOOK, MASTER DICK.
GOOD LUCK.
SHOOOOSHH
FEELING A LITTLE BETTER ALREADY
LIKE I'M COMING OUT OF A BAD DREAM...
10


SMASH!!
DICK !
I PROMISE THIS WON'T TAKE MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS
YOU'RE CHOKING ME !
YEAH THAT'S THE IDEA
WHAK
NO!


DON'T MAKE THIS HARD ON YOURSELF, BRUCE.
KRAK!
ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE
EVERYBODY'S GOT TO DIE.
TODAY IT'S YOUR TURN.
NO!
WHAM!
KRASH!
NO!
YOU CAN'T WIN, BRUCE.
I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU STRONGER THAN YOU
I SAID--
OH MY GOD..
DCK.
12

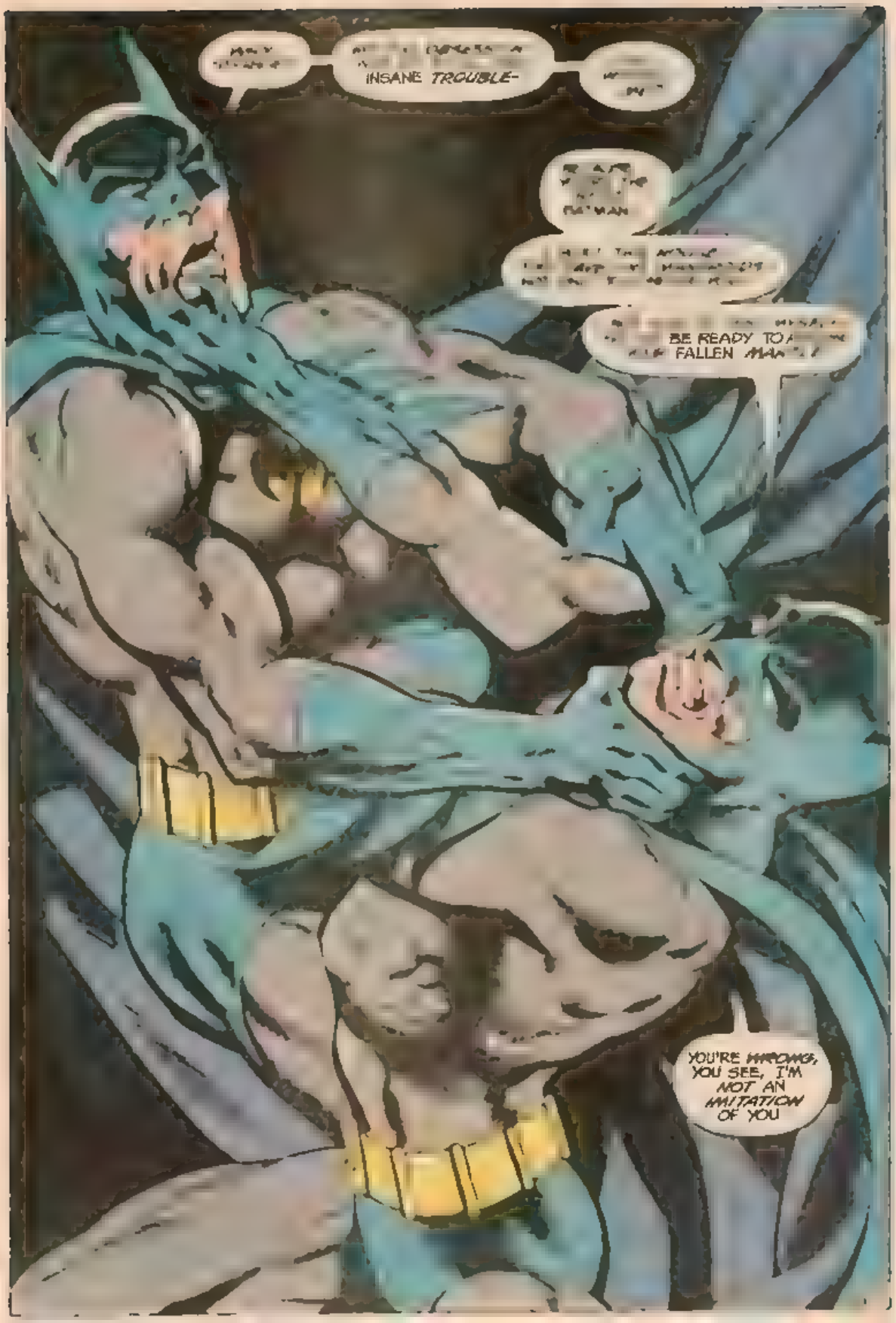
DICK--
YOU'RE ALIVE?
...WHAT COULD BE WRONG?
THIS IS A NIGHTMARE!

...I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD CALL A DOCTOR, BRUCE
YOU'RE SWEATING. SHAKING.
YOUR SKIN COLOR ISN'T GOOD AT ALL
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, DICK
EVER SINCE I GOT HOME, I'VE FELT DIZZY--
--AND THESE HALLUCINATIONS-- KEEP COMING WITH GREATER FREQUENCY AND--
NOT AGAIN
NOT AGAIN!
YAAAHH!
SKRUNCH!
-A BAD DREAM--!
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING--!
IT'S NOTHING BUT A BAD DREAM -
5

I WAS WONDERING
BATCAVE.
DRESSED,
BEGIN

AND EVEN WITHOUT THE MASK I RECOGNIZE HIS MIND AS STRANGE
REPORT THAT I HAVE BEEN DEAD
HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN AS A GHOST
ACTUALLY PROTECTING YOUR SECRET, WAYNE.
OR SHOULD I SAY, OUR SECRET
I'D CAPTURED YOU--LEARNED YOU WERE THE BATMAN--
AND THOUGH I CAPTURED ME
"HIS MASS SPED IT BEAT THE SECRET
"BUT I WASN'T DEAD, OF COURSE USING YOGA METHODS I'D SIMPLY SLOWED M HEART BEAT UNTIL IT WAS UNDETECTABLE
AND ME STRANGE
NOTHING, PERSONAL, WAYNE, BUT AFTER ALL THE PAIN I INVESTED IN KEEPING THE SECRET-
I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I BE THE BATMAN NOW
INSANE
BEFORE
MATTER?
NOT AT ALL!

ORIENTED
WEAR
ONESS MAKES HIM
AN A MATCH FOR THE
DAZED BA
AND CLEAR!
SHOULD BE
AROUND THIS
CURVE--


INSANE TROUBLE-
BE READY TO
FALLEN
YOU'RE WRONG, YOU SEE, I'M NOT AN IMITATION OF YOU

I AM
WITH A DIFFERENCE!
REALLY?
GOOD
SAY?

WHO IS THIS GUY?
HE LOOKS LIKE YOU--MAYBE EVEN SOUNDS LIKE YOU, A LITTLE--
--BUT HE SURE DOESN'T ACT LIKE YOU!
ROBIN, MEET AN OLD ENEMY OF OURS--
--PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE!
YOU THINK YOU'VE WON, DETECTIVE?
PERHAPS YOU HAVE.
BUT IF I'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOU AND YOUR WHELP--
--YOU HAVE SADLY UNDERESTIMATED ME!
I WIRED THIS DUPLICATED WAYNE MANOR FOR DESTRUCTION--TO REMOVE ALL EVIDENCE OF MY EXISTENCE ONCE I'D TAKEN YOUR PLACE AS BRUCE WAYNE AND THE BATMAN--

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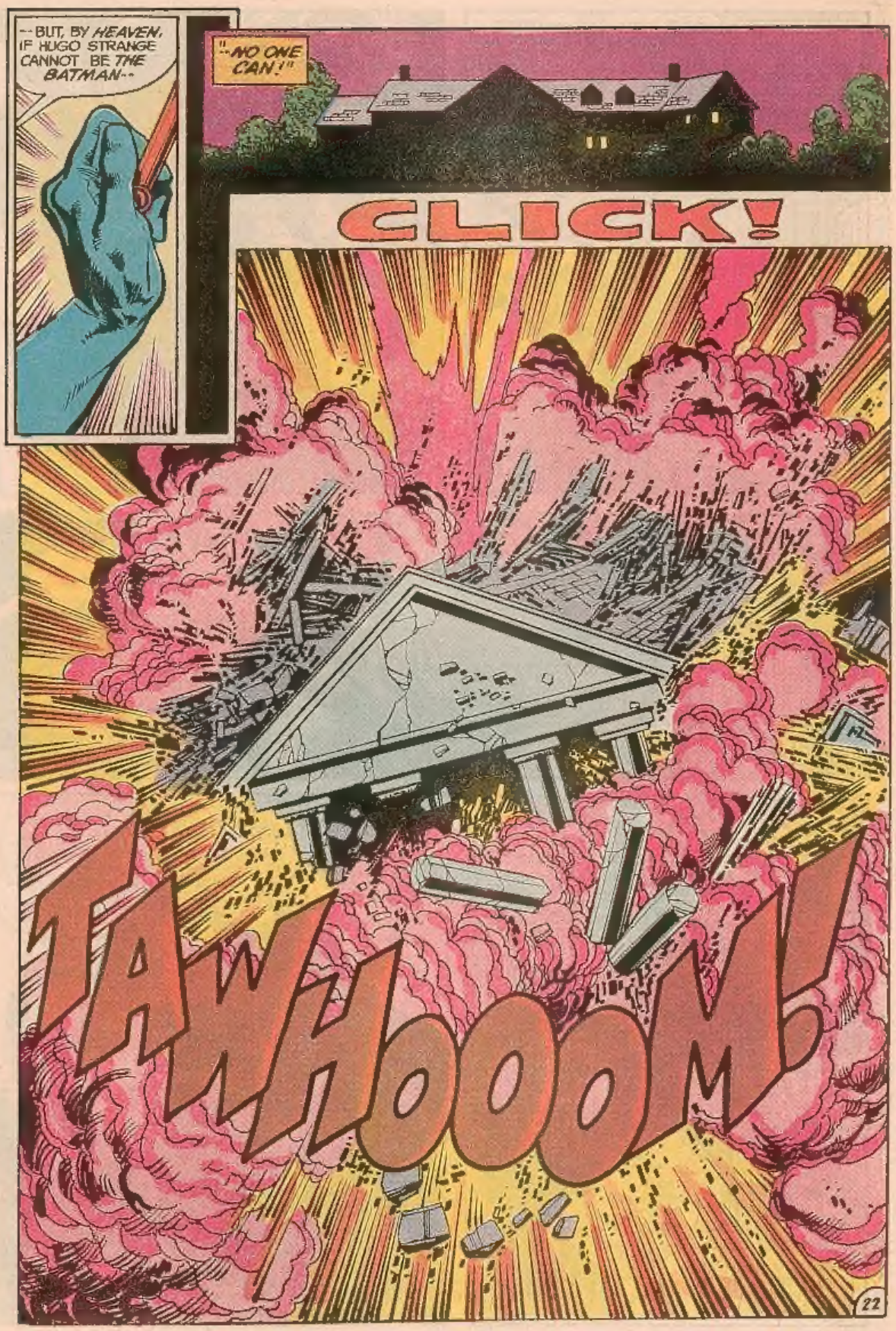
--BUT, BY HEAVEN, IF HUGO STRANGE CANNOT BE THE BATMAN--
"--NO ONE CAN!"
CLICK!
KAWHOOM!

WAYNE MANOR, TWO MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT...
MORE THAN AN HOUR GONE BY-- AND STILL NO WORD FROM EITHER MASTER DICK OR MR. WAYNE!
ANOTHER MOMENT, AND I'LL NEED TO SUMMON THE TITANS TO--
THE DOOR? WHO, AT THIS HOUR--?
MR. WAYNE... MASTER BRUCE...?
'EVENING, ALFRED.
AND... GOODBYE!
POWW!
CRASH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, ALFRED.
HUGO STRANGE MUST HAVE SENT OUT ONE OF HIS MANDROIDS TO "CLEAR" WAYNE MANOR.
WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME.
SIR...? ROBIN...? WHO... WHAT...?
IT'S A LONG STORY, ALFRED--AND WE ALMOST DIDN'T LIVE TO TELL IT.
FORTUNATELY, HUGO STRANGE WITHOUT HIS GLASSES IS NEARLY BLIND. HE NEVER SAW US RUN OUT--
--AND SO THE ONLY BATMAN HE DESTROYED WAS THE BATMAN WHO LIVED IN HIS OWN SICK MIND.
POUR THE TEA, ALFRED.
WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT...
THE END

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